

ACORN



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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SUMMER 1979

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

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The Cover

The mid-nineteenth century house of R. K. Chisholm, son of the founder of Oakville, with the Customs House on the right. The buildings stand on the Erchless Estate at the foot of Navy Street in the old town area of Oakville. The property, some four acres in extent, is situated at the entrance to the harbour alongside Oakville Creek or the Sixteen, the buildings commanding a view of Lake Ontario and shipping as it approached the port. The town of Oakville now owns the site and intends, with the help of Wintario funds, to undertake a master plan for the best use of the property, keeping in mind its strong local historical associations and the architectural merit of the buildings. Various community groups are submitting suggestions for its use, with the Oakville Historical Society in the forefront.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

For conservationists co-operation is a most important word. A lack of this quality, in certain instances, could mean the loss of a building. Co-operation between LACAC and the local building inspector is most vital. The latter is a very busy man, and he is to be excused if he sometimes forgets to show plans of a new building to the LACAC. However, if members are doing their job properly, they have given him a list of the buildings they feel are important architecturally or historically. In many instances he has never thought of them in this light. He sees an old building with a weak wall, and his reaction is to tear it down. Here is where co-operation plays an important role — or could.

LACAC members should become acquainted with their building inspector. Let him know you realize how busy he is, but drop in to his office from time to time and become his friend. Let him know you are interested in his job and want to co-operate with him in any way you can. Invite him to your meetings and tell him what you have been appointed to do.

Council members are sometimes suspicious of the LACAC although they appointed it. It is possible that council members feel that the LACAC people are no better able to decide what is appropriate for the town than they. In some instances this may be true. LACAC members should not set themselves up as experts on Canadian architecture. They should point out that they are interested in preserving our heritage and as such would not presume to give advice when an important building is concerned until they have received expert counsel from a restoration architect. Some LACACs, of course, are lucky enough to have someone qualified on their committee. We know that Niagara-on-the-Lake is fortunate enough to have Peter John Stokes on theirs. Would that we all could be so fortunate.

At the risk of being repetitious, (we mentioned this in the first issue of LACAC News) a case of non-cooperation came up in our town. A new merchant not realizing that he had rented his store in a building which was considered architecturally significant, ordered and erected a new sign over his front door that was obviously too large, too ornate, and quite out of keeping with the rest of the signs over the adjoining and nearby stores. When this was pointed out to him, he naturally complained, as his written description of the new sign, giving length, width, material, and colour, had been passed by council. A new sign had to be ordered at his expense, but his remark "Why didn't someone tell me?" goes straight to the problem. The building inspector knew that the store was situated in a heritage building, and he could have pointed this out to council. Council should then have asked for LACAC's advice. We hope that this was not a determining factor in the merchant closing his store a few months later.

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

from the Branches

PORT HOPE

Slide Presentation of Quebec Architecture

On Thursday, March 29, Pierre Saint-Laurent gave a slide presentation on the evolution of domestic rural architecture in the Quebec City area. Mr. Saint-Laurent emphasized the influence of Canadian winters on the adaptation of the French house to a new land. The meeting took place in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Port Hope LACAC

The Port Hope LACAC is again hiring a student for this summer through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Research will be continued on houses which are to be designated.

More than half the members of LACAC are also members of the ACO, as are both the representatives from Council.

Mr. Rust-D'Eye's Slides

A meeting was held in the Movie Room at Trinity College School on May 25. Mr. Rust-D'Eye showed his excellent slides of Toronto buildings which have been demolished — a wealth of nineteenth century architectural history lost.

The president, Mrs. Sculthorpe, mentioned the house tour of Port Hope and area to take place September 29th, plans for which are already being made.

Architectural Terms Booklet

The little Architectural Terms booklet is still proving popular and selling well. The branch would like to remind anyone who writes for a copy to please send a stamped envelope with his request.

June 29 Meeting

There will be a meeting at the Town Hall at nine o'clock following the band concert in the park. Two movies will be shown; *Lewisburg*, and *We Can't Stand Still — Can We?*

The Barton Myers Report

The Council have approved and accepted in principle the Downtown and Harbourfront Revitalization Study as proposed by Barton Myers and Woods Gordon and Co. They now await proposals and suggestions from developers.

TORONTO

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the branch was held in the Moot Court of the University of Toronto Law School which is located in historic Flavelle House on Queen's Park. Members were taken for a tour of the house first by Ian Kyer, a member of the student body and graduate in Medieval Studies.

After the business of the meeting, Catharine Nasmith and Kim Storey, two recent graduates of the School of Architecture, Toronto, presented a slide and graphics history of Chatham, Ontario, with historic perspective until 1925 and then an overview of changes and proposals for the main street.

Elected officers of the branch are President: Mrs. F. D. Baker, Vice-President: Mr. Kent Rawson, Vice-President: Mr. George Rust-D'Eye, Treasurer: Mrs. Hillary Stoddart, Membership: Mrs. Margaret Tucker, Secretary: Miss Mattie Clark, Correspondence: Mrs. Wm. McCoy, Program: Mr. Harry Coughy, Publications: Mr. Grey Barrick, Program: Mr. David Molesworth, Program: Mr. Howard Walker, Program: Mrs. A. Wells, Special Projects: Mrs. Joan Grierson, Acorn editor: Kent Rawson.

HAMILTON-NIAGARA

Central Public School

Thanks to public response and a lot of hard work, Central Public School is now going to be totally renovated and the exterior restored. Our branch and the LACAC will be working with the Board of Education on such details of the renovation as window treatment and interior and exterior lighting.

The Corridor Study

Hamilton is now well into Phase 3 of its "Corridor Study". The "De-Luew-Cather" Report has narrowed down some 16 possible transit road routes to six — all of which will destroy, in varying degrees, the Red Hill Creek Valley Area in the east end of Hamilton.

The east end of Hamilton — already heavily settled and industrialized — has few sites of natural beauty left. The Hamilton-Niagara execu-

tive committee is studying the facts, and will present a brief on this issue before the end of June.

Booklets

Hamilton's "Victorian Architecture" is virtually now sold out. We are currently discussing a possible reprinting. Plenty of copies of our "Walking Tours" are still available from our Branch at 50¢ each.

Dundas

Our branch recently made a brief to the Dundas Town Council urging the denial of a rezoning application which would demolish two 1840-1850's stone and brick important buildings. At issue, however, is really more than this. We believe, as do so many local residents, that Dundas should begin to capitalize on its important assets — i.e. its fine stock of heritage buildings as was recommended in the Diamond Report in 1978. It is with these buildings on King Street East, that Dundas should begin to make that town the kind of place that most people want.

At a recent public meeting, some Dundas Councillors were finally convinced that new development can be sympathetic and Complimentary and that the "soft" costs of new development are very real.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE



March Meeting

On March 20th Nick Hill gave a most interesting presentation at our general meeting. Mr. Hill is a Goderich architect whose firm, Hill and Borgal, has been involved in the restoration of many fine old buildings in Huron, Bruce and Perth counties, as well as London and Stratford. He gave a series of very fine slides depicting architecture around the world, and tying those styles into Ontario townscapes.

Restoration Workshop

A most successful workshop was held on April 21st at the lovely old home of Ruth and Fraser Parrott in Blair. Blair, one of the oldest villages in the district, is now a part of Cambridge. Heritage Cambridge was fortunate in having

three experts to help us. Peter Stokes very generously took time from his busy schedule to lend his knowledge and enthusiasm. Peter has a special place in Cambridge hearts for his work on the restoration of our City Hall. Mrs. Nell Donaldson, another of our experts, is perhaps the person who did the most to save the City Hall from demolition. She is well known for her restoration work, dealing particularly with furnishings and furniture. Two of her projects were the Todmorden project in East York, and the John McCrae home in Guelph. David Hysinger shared his practical knowledge and expertise with us. He and his wife, Bobbie, won a Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Award for their work in restoring their 1850's stone house on the West River Road. Heritage Cambridge feels that such workshops are of great value in helping the people in the community who are trying to preserve their old homes.

Cambridge International Festival

The International Festival in Cambridge was a great success last year, with representatives from many different national groups participating. This year it was felt that there should be something indicating the heritage of the Canadian pioneers. On June 23rd, at Churchill Park there will be a special Pioneer Day demonstration and program, organized by Bernice and Bill Barlow. Bill is the president of Heritage Cambridge, and it is expected that several of our members will assist.

House Tour

On Saturday, October 13th, Heritage Cambridge is planning to have a tour of several houses of special architectural and historical interest. The tour will be in the afternoon, and tea will be included at one location. Mrs. Lynda Schneider is chairman of the committee, and tickets may be obtained from Mrs. Cynthia Dobbie (Telephone: (519) 623-3770). For further information, phone Mrs. Lucille Douglas, 519-621-7197.

The Boardwalk

An excellent old stone commercial building on the corner of Main and Water streets has been renovated recently by John Bell, formerly Treasurer of Heritage Cambridge, and is now known as "The Boardwalk". A walkway between Main

Street and the parking square behind has been opened and an imaginative plan has allowed the development of several boutiques and offices while preserving the façade and character of the building. We hope to have a complete account, with pictures, for a future issue.

BRANT COUNTY

Preserve Downtown Committee

The Preserve Downtown Committee have continued to write letters and make presentations regarding the current redevelopment proposal, hoping to retain much of Brantford's heritage of older structures.

Awards

Awards for retaining commercially viable older structures have been made to the Holstein Friesian Association and to the Beckett-Glaves Funeral Home.

HURON COUNTY

The Branch held their first meeting of 1979 on April 26th at the Little Inn, Bayfield. The attendance was smaller than usual.

Nick Hill of Goderich was in charge of the program which was designated a Members' Night and all were invited to participate. Nick himself showed excellent coloured slides of a trip around snow covered rural England during January of this year.

E. W. Oddleifson of Bayfield showed some of his fascinating views of the outstanding opera house in Sydney, Australia.

Dorothy Reed gave a brief history of the village of Carlow, and Mrs. Gwen Pemberton told of a trip to Spain which was taken in March by several A.C.O. members.

Branch president Dorothy Wallace of Goderich outlined plans for the coming months. Mr. Murray Hay, landscape architect from Rockwood, will be guest speaker at the meeting on May 24th at the VanEgmond House in Egmondville (Seaforth). He will discuss landscaping of the heritage house.

It is expected the annual meeting will take place in the concert hall of the recently restored Exeter Town Hall on June 29th, following a picnic in the Exeter park.

Heather Hunter of the Clinton L.A.C.A.C. reports that they are hiring a student through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation's special youth summer employment program known as

Ontario Experience '79 to do a survey of the core area of the town. A separate committee has been drawn up to deal with the restoration of the Town Hall.

Seaforth L.A.C.A.C. lost one of its original members when Vivienne Newnham recently resigned. Town Council appointed public school principal Paul Carroll to fill the vacancy on the six member committee, although ex-mayor Betty Cardno is now a member of the L.A.C.A.C.

Seaforth L.A.C.A.C. has permission of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation to hire a student during the summer to seek to advance the promotion of a heritage district on Main Street. The L.A.C.A.C. is presenting a written brief to the Planning Board of the Town of Seaforth asking to have a heritage statement included in the updated official plan.

Goderich Performing Arts Foundation

The Goderich Performing Arts Foundation is in the midst of doing a program planning and financial feasibility study and is trying to get commitments from possible users. Fund-raising solicitations have been for the most part suspended until the study is completed.

We have discovered that capital funding from government is in short supply at present and in light of this have modified our plan from a 300-seat facility to one of 230 seats and are investigating the feasibility of a collapsible type of raked seating which would be less expensive than the excavated floor previously planned and would allow a greater variety of uses for the auditorium.

The floor of the loft has already been removed by volunteer labour. We are hoping that a great deal of the construction will be done by volunteer labour, by tradesmen as well as amateurs. Activities which can take place both in the building and on the adjacent lot as fund-raising endeavours during the summer are being planned.

A local patron, Mr. Bruce Sully, who is a member of the Board of the Shaw Festival Theatre, has brought three very knowledgeable visitors to the site, Mr. John Brook, promotion manager and Mr. Harry Brown, physical properties manager of that theatre and Mr. Peter Smith, theatre architect. The suggestions they contributed were most gratefully received.

We are most grateful, too, for the co-operation of the editor of Acorn in publicizing our attempt to give another one or two hundred years of useful life to a heritage building by featuring it on the cover of the last Acorn. The reproduction was beautiful. Our thanks to all concerned.

D. Wallace

NEEDED: A GIANT-KILLER?

Conservancy, conservation, conservative — what disparate, on occasion even disparaging, words these have become. No matter, it seems, how concerned we may be with the conservation of our environment, we seem conservatively blind to its visual and progressive ruination.

On a recent drive down one of my favourite routes along the old Lakeshore road west of Port Hope — to collect old glass from a Conservancy friend — I came to the brow of the hill above Port Britain and there, glowering in the distance, was the unescapable enormity of the new Wesleyville giant and its towering smokestack. The new generating station is yet the latest blot on our once tranquil landscape: to think that energy conservation has driven it temporarily into mothballs, not yet to flutter its fumes towards Port Hope or, in an easterly, across the Parliament Buildings.

Yet I am constantly reminded of a sorcerer with his mad apprentice, driven by his own witchcraft and drunk with power turning every cubic centimetre of soil at the Darlington site of the now maybe never-to-be nuclear station west of Bowmanville. What with Lennox bursting from the edge of the Adolphus Reach it seems that so-called Heritage Highways and our waterfronts are fair game for exploitation of this nature. One wonders why.

But this is not the only cause for concern these days as many who are interested may have noticed. If, nowadays, you drive east or west of Toronto along Highway 401 you are assailed by one of the ugliest deprivations of a once fascinating countryside — miles and miles of zig-zagging shiny towers doing their one-two-three across the landscape. Watch when they phase into line to become a formidable phalanx or do the splits as they turn a corner. Visual disaster — we are inclined to think so. And to consider that some of these monsters are temporarily redundant while their aging counterparts along the long-established corridors sport, in rusting splendour, the older fashions of drooping shoulders and floppy hats. Even the “improved” version is not a marked success visually looking more like an artificial Christmas tree shorn of its needles.

Consider too, five lines abreast — and this is the expected norm in transmission corridors, ruining the countryside, the farms they pass, the prospect from the hill or to the valley. How is it that the conclusion, to wit, “that a comfortable viewing distance for a tall object is three times its height” — should be expressed in the Solandt Report. The suggestion is that at this distance,

the tower tends to blend with its surroundings and, although visible, is not too objectionable. Someone has to be joking — especially when a 162 foot tower rides high above a storey and a half stone farmhouse and even its larger barn, the case on easterly approach to the Hamilton-Guelph interchange, not to mention the impact on the less mobile onlooker. Does this reflect an opinion of the average tunnel vision of a motorist on 401 travelling at 100 kilometers per hour? Or, as I often do, to break monotony and keep myself attentive, span the view, am I expected to ignore the obvious or filter out the ugly? That is quite impossible, I regret to say. Whoever came to that conclusion should be ashamed — to have printed it is unforgivable. The Centre for Resources University of Guelph team in their report came nearer to the point — “Field studies in Kent County and other landscape types suggest that (at) between one or two miles, the tower begins to approximate foreground forest cover height and neither dominates nor contrasts the landscape”. However, sometimes even such a cloud has a silver lining, and I never fail to welcome, except where it deviates from what appears its properly chosen course, the statuesque line of towers around the slow bend of 401 near Tilbury. What a pleasant relief in that flat landscape and the utterly boring path to Windsor. They are positively architecture in that small section — to be conserved. For the rest, down with the lot, as soon as we have better means to sharing energy. Come on the sun, the wind and to hell with hydro.

Peter John Stokes

THE ELORA GORGE: A Lost Cause

We hear that tree cutting has been done at the site for the new bridge proposed by Wellington County across the natural wonder of Elora Gorge. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of such places of beauty and concerned with the conservation of the natural environment, not to mention the stability of our ecology, fought to save the Elora Gorge, with presentations to the Ontario Municipal Board at its lengthy hearing on the subject. But it was to no avail, and even the Cabinet did not respond to the obvious danger and so protect our heritage.

One further report has come to our ear, namely that a demonstration model has indicated that in order to avoid dangerous accumulations of snow on the approaches, trees will have to be cleared up to one hundred feet on either side of

the roadway. You have read no doubt, of the salt spray damage anticipated.

We started with the lesson of 999, and we ring the changes with the Elora Gorge. Your President considers that preservation is languishing in this Province and that he cannot contribute enough to the cause or the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, for his jot is but a tittle against the political tide. What with the scenic devastation recently by Ontario Hydro, in the name of essential progress, our future, if not bleaker, becomes uglier by the metre. Prosaic justice perhaps?

Peter John Stokes

LAUGHLEN LODGE

Members of the Toronto Region Branch of ACO have recently joined forces with city mayor John Sewell, Alderman Janet Howard, and the Toronto Historical Board in what appears to be a final effort to save John Howard's 1848 House of Industry at 87 Elm Street. The building, now known as Laughlen Lodge, was originally built as a home for the aged poor. With the exception of Colborne Lodge, Howard's own residence in High Park, Laughlen Lodge is the only remaining work of this distinguished early Toronto architect in the city. The building has been threatened with complete demolition since mid-1973, when its present owners, the Rotary and Second Mile Clubs of Toronto began development of the surrounding property for a new senior citizens' facility. Portions of the old building, including two wings designed by E. J. Lennox and built in 1899, have already been demolished to make way for new construction.

Despite a favourable feasibility study showing the potential for renovation and various proposals for recycling the building for alternative uses, the owners seem intent on levelling what remains of the structure in the name of "progress".

A vigorous telephone and letter-writing campaign by the Conservancy, hand-in-hand with renewed efforts by Mayor Sewell and the THB to convince Rotary Laughlen to reconsider, appear at this time to represent the only hope for saving the original building.

(This article arrived after another on the same subject had gone to press. We believe that Laughlen Lodge is an important enough building to be mentioned again. Ed.)

NOMENCLATURE FOR HISTORIC HOUSES

A simple nomenclature for historic houses relates to the owners of the building as a rule. Usually the first owner is named ahead of the present owner. The only difficulty which arises is a change in ownership over the years, but at least with the original owner recorded, and presumably the date of the naming of the house also known, records can be checked and subsequent revisions made. The Lockhart-Moogk House in Niagara-on-the-Lake represents the typical.

Occasionally with a family or owner having the property for a considerable time, say half a century or more, that name might also be attached to give a three part title to the building. The Moore-Bishop-Stokes House in Niagara-on-the-Lake is an example where the Bishop family owned the house from 1892 to 1964.

More rarely the building, particularly a house, is known by its most important or distinguished inhabitant rather than the original owner and this name takes precedence. The Barnum House at Grafton and the MacDougal-Harrison House, Niagara-on-the-Lake are two examples.

Some houses have particular names by which they were always known and the family name or owner's names are of little if any importance by comparison. The Grange, home of the Boulton family and later of Goldwin Smith, is an instance of this in Toronto.

Other deviations do occur, such as the appending of a building name long associated with the house (eg. Chrysler-Rigg House, Roslyn Cottage). By general acceptance or choice a family name associated with the house for some time will be retained even though the present generation has another cognomen. An example of this would be the Rowe-McCrohan House in Whitby.

Peter John Stokes,
April 1979. Consulting Restoration Architect

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING APRIL, 1979

Called at 12:00 noon, 19 April, 1979 in the office of Messrs. Chapman and Walker.

Present — William Moffet, Howard Walker, Howard Chapman, Peter Stokes.

No formal agenda was presented but an outline of points for discussion was given as an introduction to the proceedings as follows:

- (1) Advisory Board and its continuing role.
- (2) Scope of services of Advisory Board.
- (3) Payment to members.
- (4) Expanding role and monographs of Ontario communities.
- (5) Seeking of funds from Wintario for monographs.
- (6) Review of recent operations.

- (a) Orangeville: Mr. Chapman averred that although the original report on the bank proposals was satisfactory the result was still far from ideal, to which Mr. Moffet replied that both the form and materials finally used were far more sympathetic than those originally contemplated.
- (b) Petrolia: Mr. Walker noted that there has been no further response from this quarter since the presentation of the report, but confirmed that said report was a definite catalyst fostering local and continuing interest in preservation.
- (c) Stratford: this report produced a stay in demolitions sufficient to allow reconsideration and the evolution of sympathetic rehabilitation schemes.
- (d) Brantford: successful and thorough in its considerations, but the question of the appropriate procedures in following up recommendations was noted in Mr. Stokes' concern that the local ACO Branch, while referring to this report, added a too destructive critical attitude without due deference to the Advisory Board.
- (e) Dundas: reports on two building groups at either end of the commercial section of the main street was followed by a more detailed study, by A. J. Diamond, of the total commercial core.
- (f) Ancaster: local preservation interest was supported in reports on buildings in the central area of the old village, but no positive local action seems to have ensued.
- (g) Barrie: Mr. Walker reported that he, as a member of the ACO, had attended a meeting of local citizens protesting an untoward commercial redevelopment of a residential area, a development,

moreover, too remote from the present commercial core of the city to be anything but detrimental to the old centre.

- (h) The Advisory Board has been bombarded by requests from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications after the President's letter to the Hon. James Snow regarding the loss of scenic quality of heritage routes as a result of highway improvements. Response has been by letter, site visits, tours of threatened highways and attendance at MTC and consultant staff meetings.

Except for expressions of thanks from MTC staff little acknowledgement had been noted of the Board's efforts generally.

It was considered important to establish the support of local media — newspaper, radio and TV in the work of the Board and to submit reports to the local papers so that the public, generally, could be made more aware of the Conservancy's work. (This was to be suggested to Branch representatives at the 2 May 1979 meeting of Council).

For the record it was also noted that the response to enquiries devolved upon few members as need arises, but that the operation should be broadened to include regional representatives if at all possible.

- (1) The continuing role of the Advisory board depends on the people involved, the time available, but there are limitations in depending on a few who contribute more than they should. Further publicity will likely generate more requests so that more participants are needed.
- (2) The scope of services provided by the Advisory Board is confirmed as being essentially preliminaries, elements of proposals with detail definitely limited in scope. It is intended, that should requests for more detailed consideration be received, that reference should be made to the fact that this is rightly the field of consultants and not the role of the Conservancy. The principal role of the Board is to help promote preservation activity, voice support of local activity where appropriate, to serve as a catalyst in emerging schemes and to help give direction to preliminary pro-

posals towards more detailed study and implementation by other consultants and authorities.

The examination and report of the Ontario Building Code, as it affects old buildings, was considered to be too onerous a task for the Advisory Board. Such a study was long overdue, however, and needs to be discussed with Council.

- (3) On questions of payment to members it was noted that the Conservancy had limited funds available for the purpose, but that expenses could be looked after. It was suggested that the question of liability arose when fees were paid to members. (The point of a non-profit organization should also be explored in case a misinterpretation might be construed if members acting for the Advisory Board accepted a modest fee or honorarium).

It was noted by Mr. Walker that free advice is not heeded in most cases and that even a modest bill will establish the fact that a considered opinion has worth and should not be ignored. Therefore it was agreed that a statement of costs and expenses would be prepared and submitted if the Advisory Board were hired by a corporation (including a municipality) or private

client, and that such monies received on account of the Board's activities should go to the treasury of the ACO.

Mr. Chapman was also to enquire about previous offers to the Heritage Review Board with regard to the Board's participation in that body's activities.

- (4) The role of the Advisory Board could expand significantly with better coverage of its deliberations, but it was considered that its greatest task would be to help oversee the preparation of monographs when the format and procedures for these had been worked out.
- (5) The generous donation of \$5,000 from the Bronfman Foundation towards the cost of monographs is to be matched before work can start.

Mr. Walker, the Board member most familiar with the matter of Wintario grants, was to explore the possibilities and report.

Discussion continued at lunch and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Peter John Stokes,
Member,
Advisory Board

VISITORS FROM BUFFALO

On Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, a group of approximately forty members of the Western New York Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians visited Toronto and were escorted on walking and bus tours of various areas of the city by members of Toronto Region ACO Branch. The American group, headed by internationally-renowned British architect Reyner Banham (now Dean of the School of Architecture at the State University of New York's Buffalo Campus), visited several Toronto landmarks, including Fort York, Lennox's Old City Hall, Queen's Park, Osgoode Hall, the Grange, and St. James' Cathedral. In addition, they were given guided tours of the old Town of York and Waterfront areas, and the "recycled neighbourhoods of Yorkville, Cabbagetown, and Donvale.

In return for their hospitality, members of

the Toronto ACO will be treated to similar tours of buildings and areas of architectural and historical interest in Buffalo on the Branch's annual Fall tour, scheduled for this coming September.

Hartill Art Associates
181 St. James Street,
London, Ont.
21 May 1979

The Editor,
The Free Press,
York Street,
London, Ont.

ref. Dundas St. Armoury

Dear Sir,

Your editorial of today's date under the heading "Sometimes the price is right", deserves a

reply as it appears to advocate the handing over to commercial interests of the Armoury on Dundas Street. There are other points of view, and to dismiss the Armoury as having 'no historical significance as a London landmark' is to totally ignore the enormous impact of the military on the development of London's economy. Had not the British Army centred their garrison in London in the early 19th century, it is quite probable that the town would never have become the city it is today! The merchants of those days did very well in provisioning the garrison, with Goodhue and O'Brien in the lead! !

In its decision to establish Armouries in key centres, in 1900, the Dominion government recognised the established military presence and made it easy for the recruitment and training of militia in order to have available at any time forces for defense and public order.

To permit the destruction of this Armoury and replace it with yet another office tower complex of "no spectacular architectural qualities", negates our history, and the very 'colour' and character of the downtown area will finally be lost to the greed of commercialism! Perhaps an editorial discussing the **improvement** of downtown London would be most timely!! For example, looking at the opposite corner to the Armoury, one sees a classic site crying out for development: full of dilapidated buildings and defunct gas stations, such corners are all over this city! Have **they** any architectural significance? ? More than the Armoury? ? ?

It is time that our City Fathers liaised with LACAC, or the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in order to determine whether people really NEED . . . yet another shopping mall or high-rise commercial complex. It is time that we were consulted and considered when major changes are planned that alter the face of our city, affecting not only the aesthetics of life, but the very history that we should be permitted to hand down to the next generation! It is time that the people's needs were considered and not just the desires of the powerful financial institutions!!

Thank you for enlightening us all,
Sincerely,
Alec J. Hartill

(member of Heritage Canada, Society for Study of Architecture in Canada and The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario).

Mr. Hartill sent us a copy of the above letter with the annotation "to keep you informed". We pass it on to our readers.

ERIC ARTHUR TEA

On Saturday, April 21, members of the Toronto Region Branch held a tea at the historic York Club in honour of architect, historian, and noted preservationist Eric Arthur. The tea, timed to coincide with the publication of Mr. Arthur's latest book, **From Front Street to Queen's Park: The Story of Ontario's Parliament Buildings** (McClelland and Stewart, 1979, \$22.50), was given in appreciation of the 82-year-old Mr. Arthur's many outstanding achievements in the field of architectural conservation. Such achievements include his work as organizer and co-founder of the Architectural Conservancy in the early 1930's, the publication of two other books (**Toronto: No Mean City**, 1964, and **The Barn: A Vanishing Landmark**, 1972) on the subject of preservation, and nearly four decades of service as Professor of Architecture at the University of Toronto. Often referred to as "the Grand Old Man of Canadian Architecture", Mr.



Arthur has received numerous awards of distinction, including a Toronto civic merit award for distinguished public service, a Canada Council medal for outstanding cultural achievement, a University of Alberta award for distinguished service to the arts and architecture of Canada, and Companion of the Order of Canada.

Noted guests at the tea included Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon and Anthony P. C. Adamson, whose characteristically eloquent and witty introduction of the guest of honour set a friendly tone for the afternoon's festivities. In all, approximately one hundred friends and ad-

mirers of Mr. Arthur were in attendance, making the event a memorable one for a remarkable man. Kudos are in order for organizers Donna Baker and Joan Grierson of the Toronto Branch.

ONTARIO'S HERITAGE HIGHWAYS

Following our letter to the Hon. James Snow and the Minister's reply, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario has had several requests for comments on proposed roadway improvements, particularly those on Heritage Highways and routes of scenic interest. So far members Howard V. Walker and Peter J. Stokes of the Advisory Board have visited three routes in question and have recorded comments in memoranda to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Your President has attended two meetings with MTC and consultants and has replied to letters on two other sections of highway being considered for improvement.

A site visit was made to the Highway 3 section between the Wellandport Road and Dunnville, the sequel to the Wainfleet section causing such great concern locally because of the threatened loss of trees, and prompting our letter to the Minister. We note that as a result of considerable care in preliminary design based on a thorough study of actual conditions along this section of the highway a higher proportion of the trees will be spared than previously. This involves additional drains and more elaborate ditching to get around trees in many cases although the added cost is not a great amount as a proportion of the total work of regrading, widening and other improvements contemplated. We hope that the results will justify the relatively small additional expense and that the trees will survive in healthy condition for a sufficiently long time to make the attention worthwhile.

Just recently we have had a letter regarding proposed improvements to Highway 55 between the Q.E.W. and Niagara-on-the-Lake. At least here is a route at our doorstep we know only too well: we travel that section regularly and should be able to recite its features by heart. But at least we are pleased to be able to cooperate with MTC even through the demands of traffic often compromise the aims of conservation, a regrettable outcome of our undisciplined development in most cases and lack of planning, so notorious a feature of our laissez-faire system.

GIFT OF AGRICULTURAL DRAWINGS FOR ARCHIVES

One of the most significant gifts ever made to the Archives, the J. C. B. and E. C. Horwood Collection of Architectural Drawings, has been accepted by Premier William G. Davis.

The Collection, donated by Mr. Eric Horwood of Toronto, is possibly the largest and one of the richest collections of architectural drawings in Canada. It contains more than 10,000 original drawings dealing with over 1,200 buildings by 55 architects covering a period of 150 years. Eminent 19th and 20th century Canadian architects represented in the Collection include Edmund Burke, Frederic W. Cumberland, David B. Dick, Henry Langley, William G. Storm and the older and younger Messrs Horwood.

Important Toronto buildings represented include University College, Osgoode Hall, Victoria College, St. James Cathedral, and Metropolitan United Church.

NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

HERITAGE OTTAWA

Talk by Marc Denhez

Mr. Denhez, a Montreal lawyer, presented some very informative facts concerning problems which heritage conservationists encounter when dealing with government legislation in his talk to members on Heritage Day.

Heritage laws were first introduced in Rome in 457 A.D. It was not until 1666 that Sweden followed and then Britain, in 1881, with the "Ancient Monuments Act". By the end of the 19th century most European countries had followed suit with their own laws to protect heritage sites.

Aside from following the "Ancient Monuments" of Britain, the closest Canada comes to legislation of its own is in recognizing a Treaty called the "World Heritage Convention" (1972). Under the terms of the convention, Canada committed herself (in 1974) to "protect the heritage of this country" by all legal and financial means at her disposal.

In 1919 the Federal Government passed the "Historic Sites and Monuments Act". But because a law prohibiting any property owner from demolishing his own property is beyond the rights of the Federal Government, the above Act has limited application.

Under the provisions of this Act, the Federal

Government has the authority to erect a plaque on a site stating its historical significance. This they did with the Rideau Convent from which example we can see how little clout the "Historic Sites and Monuments Act" has. If it were today decided to tear down Parliament Hill there is nothing Canadians could do about it.

The Department of Public Works seems to be recognizing its moral obligations through its paper, the "DPW Heritage Policy". This Policy says that the Federal Government undertakes a moral obligation not to tear down historical buildings — unless certain criteria are met. This policy is supposed to include all historically significant government-owned buildings built prior to 1945, and thus includes the Daly Building which has been slated for demolition by DPW, owners of the building.

Income Tax Act

The Income Tax Act would seem to do much in its turn to discourage interest in heritage preservation. According to the Act, when an owner of a property demolishes his building, the building has not been "disposed" of, it has been "lost". If the building was owned for investment purposes it can then be deducted as a "loss" on the Income Tax Return. For example, if you own a \$100,000 building and you demolish it, you can claim a \$100,000 deduction on your Income Tax. This \$100,000 may be spread over a period of up to seven years. There are no tax benefits from disposing of the building in any other way. If the owner should decide to renovate instead, he would be taxed on the increased value of his property. Canada is the only country in the western world which does not give tax credits for renovations. We have created a tax structure which almost forces property owners to demolish rather than renovate.

Road Salt Damage to Pretoria Avenue Bridge

The design of the replacement for the Pretoria Avenue Bridge (which had been damaged beyond repair by corrosive road salt) is still under discussion, one and a half years after the debate began. The engineering consultants have produced a new design after a previous one had been criticized by the National Capital Commission and Parks Canada. It was hoped that construction would begin in the early spring.

Businesses See the Light

On Bank Street, between Slater Street and Laurier Avenue, within the last year and a half, five buildings on the block have been renovated

or cleaned. The renovation most sympathetic to the original fabric of its building was recently completed by Norman and Harris Stein, owners of Stein Bros. Ltd. and Folio Graphics Ltd. respectively. When asked what motivated the owners to return to the store's original appearance rather than to "modernize" their heritage building, Harris Stein replied that, in his view, bringing a storefront back to its original appearance is the least expensive method of renovation as well as the most appealing.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION

Public Participation in Review of Capital Funding Programs

The Ministry of Culture and Recreation is presently conducting a study of its programs for funding the purchase, construction, and renovation of land and buildings. By means of a questionnaire they are hoping to broaden the information base on which the study is built.

It is hoped that anyone receiving this questionnaire will take a few minutes to complete and return it.

AURORA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The above society has sent us a copy of their newsletter, *The Attic*, telling us of their activities. In it are mentioned an illustrated lecture by Carl Benn, formerly Lieutenant in Command of the Fort York Guard, and now Senior Historical Interpreter at Montgomery's Inn, Islington, and a spring bus tour for May 26 to see Victoria Hall in Cobourg, and Peterborough County's Century Village.

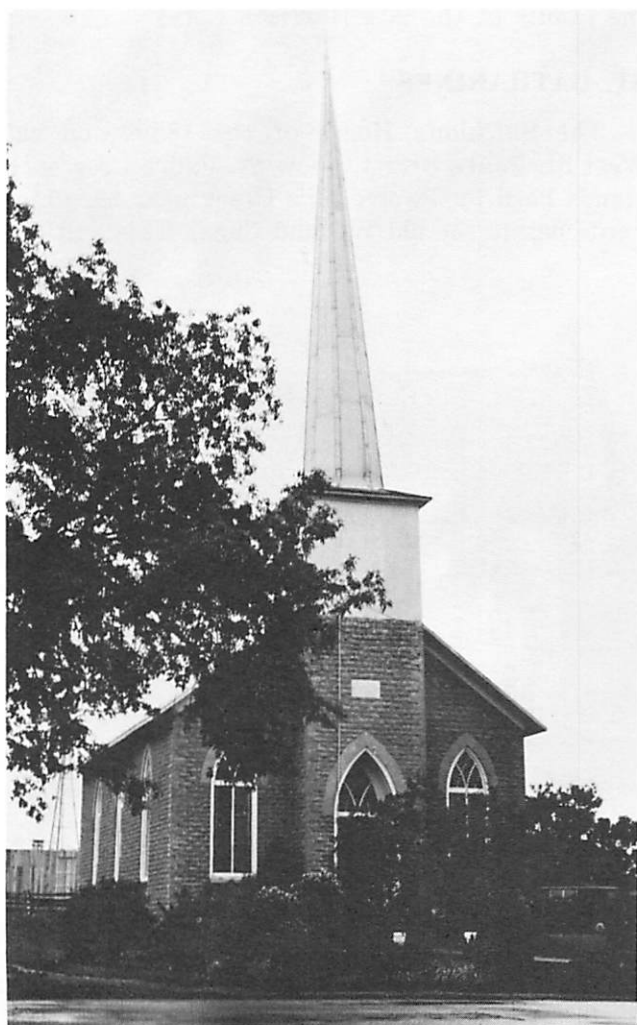
AROUND AND ABOUT:

Happenings in Ontario

AMELIASBURG

Roblin's Mill, now reconstructed at Black Creek, was once the magnificent landmark of this charming Prince Edward County village, where it stood close to the road with a tall chimney of pink hand-made brick alongside, constructed long before when a strange quirk of fate dried the lake on the mountain which served as a source of power. Stranger still that the story goes that the new-fangled boiler house was never used: miraculously the lake was replenished. The chimney collapsed across the roadway one foggy

night, then the mill, in danger of collapse, was carried off to its new site. Since the octagon house in the village has suffered some sad modern improvements and the handsome miller's house was seriously damaged in a fire a year or so ago. But the latest danger is the possible threat to the sole-surviving landmark of Ameliasburg, the old Methodist Church of 1868 now housing the Ameliasburg Museum. This is a simple stone building with pointed windows, a tower to the front, its upper stage in wood supporting a tall octagonal steeple. More recent repairs failed to catch up with previous problems and in themselves are again causing concern. The steeple and tower framing need attention and reinforcement, the timber tower stage and steeple re-covering in materials and details to restore the original appearance of this attractive building. Support is now being sought for this restoration work. A member of the Advisory Board of the ACO has examined the problem and written a short report in favour of the project.



AMELIASBURG MUSEUM

ANCASTER

The Amber Glow, an old hotel on the main street, converted to other uses, and now scheduled for replacement, was the subject of a Conservation Review Board hearing recently, at which the municipality led no evidence in support of the designation. If Barrie (which see) had not the honours to be the first to try this trick, hence "to barrie" or "barried", it might have been possible to say "ancastered" again.

BARRIE

Some communities fail to learn even by past mistakes. The sad demise of the Old Firehall which did have active local support and, despite this, was torn down to become an untidy disused lot to one side of City Hall Square, is only one instance. This occurred after the building had been recommended for designation by LACAC, so accepted by Council with the publication of the necessary advertisement and then, at a Conservation Review Board Hearing called on account of objection, the City led no evidence in support of its intention to designate. Such action might be known as "barrying", the old building so treated "barried".

The latest move is no less disconcerting in the attempt to promote a commercial redevelopment of an older residential area which could be preserved. The commercial scheme is too far from the core of the city to stabilize the old centre, already knocked for six by a multitude of ill-conceived shopping plazas beyond Barrie's borders. Local objection was well and truly expressed as one of our members, representing the ACO at the meeting, noted. If Barrie would like to see what could happen, a visit to Grimsby should demonstrate the decline of a once bustling main street centre at the hands of similarly misplaced "progress".

CAMBRIDGE

The house, believed to be the oldest private residence in the Waterloo Region, is for sale. Presently owned by Peter and Pat Dicks, the three-storey home situated on 3.2 acres of land along the Grand River is thought to have been built in the spring of 1817 by Jacob Bechtel. Local historians say Bechtel and his wife lived in a log cabin on the property while they built the original section of the existing home. When the cabin was demolished its hearth stone was saved and placed as a stepping stone to the verandah of the present house. According to a 1967 report written by the

Waterloo Historical Society, the land, as all land along the Grand River, had been an Indian camping ground. The Dicks bought the property five years ago and have since found artifacts, including an arrowhead, a 1781 North American token and a clothing button from the 1700s.

GEORGETOWN

The CN wants to close and remove the present historical Georgetown railway station. On practical grounds alone it should stay there serving the same purpose it has for a century. An infrequent traveller by train was amazed one Wednesday morning to find the station full of people waiting for the 8 a.m. train for Toronto. This is not the GO Train, but the regular one.

It was one of those bitterly cold mornings, and the warmth of the station was welcome for the approximately 30 people and their luggage. If the CN is allowed to close the station, the only shelter will be one similar to the GO train shelters erected elsewhere, which are certainly not large and certainly not warm. The contention that passenger service is no longer a paying proposition seems unwarranted. The train to Ottawa was jammed, both coming and going, with people sitting in the dining areas with their luggage since there was nowhere else to put them.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

At last LACAC is reborn. Two meetings have been held so far, the first an introduction to the role and responsibility of LACAC, with Edward Tooke from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, the second mainly to discuss the ramifications of the proposed Heritage Conservation District in the commercial core of the old town. This study is progressing and the concern for the treatment of municipally owned spaces, namely the streets and Market Square including landscaping and lighting, were the main points considered so far.

ORILLIA

Recently an OMB hearing was called to hear appeals against a multi-storey apartment block proposed on the site of an abandoned creamery within a block of the City Hall and Opera House, that rather picturesque late Victorian pile in the French Chateau style. The scale of the building would be a gross intrusion too near the downtown section of Orillia and most objections revolved around its sharp and disrupting contrast and the

compromising effect it would have on previous schemes to improve the commercial area.

The hearing occupied four days in Orillia, another in Toronto: the decision is awaited by all concerned.

We learn with regret that the old Heward House, a large summer mansion of the late 19th century constructed on a promontory with a magnificent outlook over Lake Simcoe, has recently burnt to the ground. The house had been unoccupied for some time and required considerable restoration, but was in the hands of a sympathetic owner, when the disaster struck.

PETROLIA

The Englehart Mansion

The Englehart Mansion, once a residence known as Glenview, and later converted to a hospital, has its drawing room restored and is now used as a board room. The interior is an exuberant example of the early nineties. The three thousand dollar restoration was done three years ago by the family of the late Harrison Corey.

ST. CATHARINES

The Shickluna House of the 1830's, on old West St. Paul's Street, (now St. Paul's Crescent) stands hard by Twelve Mile Creek near the shipyards beside the old Welland Canal. This and the



adjoining house, once a wing, have so far been saved, but other old houses alongside which made this a microcosm of the early town have recently been destroyed. Rodman Hall, the old Merritt House, 1855, now the Art Gallery, stands on the hill above — it seems another marvellous opportunity lost, so we must be grateful for small mercies and the odd less mortal morsel.

TORONTO

Two houses share the honour of being the oldest standing structures in the community which became the city of North York in February. Both were hideouts for volunteers in the 1837 rebellion, instigated by the members of William Lyon Mackenzie's Reform party, which had been defeated in an election and had had its proposals for more self-rule rejected by Britain. One of the houses is 90 Burndale Ave. in the old village of Lansing, two blocks west of Yonge, and three north of Sheppard Ave. It is believed to have been built in 1812.

The other is 125 Aspenwood Dr., one street below Steeles Ave. about half way between Leslie Street and Woodbine Avenue. It is believed to date from 1813.

MARGINALIA

You may remember our comments about a certain reconstruction of an ancient and foreign building from real, antique English oak, complete with a couple of oast-houses, in the Toronto rhubarbs — well it's for sale we see in perusing a recent issue of *Antiques* — for a cool 1.8 million U.S. dollars. Henry the Eighth never had it so good — a ballroom — conference centre, games room, circular bar and indoor swimming pool with sauna, fully insulated and fully alarmed — (and so are we) — the best of British luck?

Peter John Stokes

Two fascinating articles appear on the subject of Nuremberg and its postwar reconstruction after the devastating air attack of 2 January 1945 in the November 1978 issue of the *Connoisseur*. The first entitled *Magnet Nuremberg* by Dr. Christoph F. hr v. Imhoff describes the history and development of the city, its rise to pre-eminence in the Middle Ages, to flourish as a trading and cultural centre and to survive, despite various setbacks, as a unique expression of the German merchant city. The second article, *Nuremberg, the reconstruction of the old town 1945-1978*, by Otto Peter Görl, gives the background and story of the rebuilding of the city to provide not only the continuity with its historic past, but also a solution to the replacement of buildings lost. The discussion of the guidelines to the rebuilding evolved in answer to the problems of restoration versus new building are particularly interesting to read about.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

An annotated transcription of the journals of the Toronto architect, JOHN GEORGE HOWARD (1803 - 1890), is being prepared by Shirley Morriss for the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Howard, who was particularly active in southern Ontario in the 1830s and '40s, designed Toronto's third jail, the Brockville courthouse, the House of Industry and the monumental Provincial Lunatic Asylum in Toronto, as well as numerous commercial structures, churches, and houses.

The transcription project is to include appendices listing Howard's drawings and plans and related documentation. Mrs. Morriss would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who can advise her as to the nature and location of such material. Information should be directed to her at 1768 Valentine Gardens, Mississauga, Ontario L5J 1H5.

NEW ARCHITECTURAL BOOKSTORE

Barbara Ballentine and Susan Ford, founders of Ballenford Architectural Books Ltd., the first Canadian firm to specialize in books on architectural, urbanism, and interior design, have recently opened their store at 98 Scollard Street in Yorkville. The selection of materials is impressive and includes major monographs, historical texts, and publications on solar energy, interior and furniture design. Incorporated into the store is a gallery for the exhibition of architectural sketches, drawings, and photographs.

Ballenford will sell and distribute books by mail order across the country. They have also agreed to sell publications of the Toronto ACO Branch, such as those on architects Alfred Chapman and Eden Smith and the annual Fall tour pamphlets, on consignment.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Indian Art in Pipestone:

George Catlin's Portfolio in the British Museum

John C. Ewers, Editor

George Catlin, the renowned portrayer of American Indian life, also produced an unpublished illustrated portfolio on a subject of great personal fascination: Indian pipes and pipe-making. This manuscript was discovered some years ago in the British Museum by Dr. John C. Ewers, a leading authority on Plains Indians history and art, and on the career of George Catlin. The discovery led to a remarkable collaboration

between two of the world's greatest research centers — the British Museum and the Smithsonian Institution — culminating in the production of *Indian Art in Pipestone*, edited by Dr. Ewers.

Catlin's portfolio clearly reveals him as a pioneer student of Indian tobacco pipes — their history, uses, methods of manufacture, and the remarkable variety of shapes in which they were carved in stone or modeled in clay. His illustrations range from the simple tubes employed by ancient Mound Builders to elaborate effigy pipes portraying birds and animals of the region, and human beings engaged in various activities. The pipes were designed by Indian contemporaries from tribes of the Western Great Lakes, Great Plains, and North Pacific Coast, and many of them are choice originals owned by Indians or by white collectors living in or near the Indian Country.

In his introduction to *Indian Art in Pipestone*, Dr. Ewers explains George Catlin's studies of Indian pipes and the importance of the British Museum portfolio. Accompanying the 23 portfolio color plates are Catlin's explanatory text for each plate, editorial footnotes, and photographs of pipes which closely resemble some of the more remarkable pipes or Catlin's portraits of Indians whose smoking equipment he portrays in his plates. A reprint of Catlin's virtually forgotten description of his visit to the famed red pipestone quarry is also included.

The Sacred Grove

Dillon Ripley

In *The Sacred Grove* Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, draws on a lifetime of interest and experience to present this informative account of the growth of museums from their origins to the present.

He shows us how they are no longer a "sacred grove", no longer the mere storehouse of antiquity — the cold tomb jealously guarded by curators and scholars. Here we see how museums have evolved from the "cabinets of curiosities" of rich men, and have emerged to play an increasingly important role within the community — to become centers of lively education.

Mr. Ripley allows the reader to participate in the pleasures of this great expansion and in the problems and difficulties — both human and financial — that accompany it.

For all who respond to man's collecting instinct, *The Sacred Grove* offers brilliant insight into the world of museums and collecting.

Mr. Ripley's book ought to be required reading for people unfamiliar with their local museums, as well as for habitués. (It) is written in an easy, engaging style, tells a fascinating story, and best of all, raises very important questions concerning the use and development of museums in society as we know it and hope to make it".

Peterborough's Architectural Heritage

by Martha Ann Kidd

A listing of structures erected prior to 1890 in the area bounded by the Otonabee River, Parkhill Road, Park Street, and Townsend Street. Published by the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee 1978. \$8.00. Order from Peterborough's Architectural Heritage, 3 Engleburn Place, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 1C4. Include 75 cents for postage and handling.

Shortcuts to Survival

This is a practical fundraising manual, by Joyce Young. Price \$5.00 from Shortcuts, 509 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2Z6. The manual is a practical guide to those non-profit groups seeking funds from \$3,000 to \$300,000 annually, dealing with sources of funds, ways and means of raising money and approaches appropriate to those who may give financial assistance. Joyce Young has worked as a fundraiser for Pollution Probe and has set up other funding programs, as well as giving a course on the subject.

The Heritage of Upper Canadian Furniture by Howard Pain, Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd., Toronto 1978/\$49.95. This is a very handsome if costly publication we would like to take a closer look at and review in greater detail later.

The American Life Foundation, P.O. Box 349, Watkins Glen, NY 14891, offers a Cabinet of Quintessential Books for Victorian Lovers with republications of various pattern books, manuals and catalogues with prices ranging from \$3.00 to \$35.00, most being in the \$5.00 to \$12.00 range, the most expensive being *Exterior Decoration: Victorian Colors for Victorian Houses* and including twenty-four plates, fifty paint samples and a new color analysis. For further details and a full list of books write to the Foundation.

**Ghost Towns of Ontario, By Ron Brown
Volume 1 — Southern Ontario, April 1978**

A fascinating book, if a sad one. The rise and fall of Ontario's villages is depicted in black and white illustrations, and with many reproductions of photographs. Mill ruins, forgotten hotels, old stores, ruined foundries, overgrown barely discernible main streets are all that are left of these ghost towns. Some, in fact, have no standing building. Failure of wheat farming closed the grist mills, and timber supplies were depleted.

Look at the maps and you may be surprised

to see a ghost town within a few miles of where you live. Allans Mills and Mohrs Corners are mentioned. The Lake Ontario Shoreline chapter includes Port Milford and Grahamsville. Ontario Western Plains chapter includes Black Horse Corners and Duncrief. The Queen's Bush chapter includes Henfryn and Egypt. Roads of Broken Dreams chapter includes Spence and Swords. Round the Bay chapter includes Mystery of Main Island Station and Cape Rich. The chapter on Mining Towns of Southern Ontario includes Blairton and Craigmont.



We are receiving requests by mail for copies of ACORN, and also requests to be put on our subscription list. These letters have been answered stating that ACORN is not for sale and suggesting that the writers join the nearest ACO branch and receive three copies a year.

ACO's Address: 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P7

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